## Message Text

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R 130118Z FEB 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: OEXC, UR, XH
SUBJECT:USE OF AUTHORS' ROYALTIES TO FINANCE VISITS OF
YOUNGAMERICAN WRITERS

REF: STATE 28930 TO MOSCOW (NOTAL)

1. U.S. PEN CLUB HAS SUGGESTED TO DEPT THAT AUTHORS' ROYALTIES HELD IN LOCAL CURRENCIES BY EE COUNTRIES IN ACCOUNTS FOR U.S. AUTHORS MIGHT BE USED FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE. ACCORDING TO PEN CLUB SUCH ACCOUNTS EXIST IN ALL EE COUNTRIES AND USSR. FUNDS ARE REPORTEDLY IN LOCAL CURRENCIES WHICH ARE NOT CONVERTIBLE AND MUST BE USED WITHIN EACH COUNTRY. ALSO, FUNDS APPARENTLY CAN BE USED ONLY BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE AUTHORS IN WHOSE NAMES THEY ARE HELD. PEN CLUB BELIEVES

TOTAL OF ALL SUCH ACCOUNTS IS CONSIDERABLE. FYI: WE UNDERSTAND FROM A VISITING POLISH WRITER THAT IN POLAND FIVE PERCENT OF ROYALTIES PAID FOREIGN AUTHORS BY "ZAIKS" (POLISH ORGANIZATION) ARE RETAINED IN AN ACCOUNT IN POLAND TO BE USED BY THE AUTHOR FOR VISITS TO POLAND INCLUDING PURCHASE OF TICKETS ON POLISH AIRLINE. END FYI.

2. IF LEGAL AND FINANCIAL HURDLES CAN BE OVERCOME, PEN SUGGESTS THAT SUCH FUNDS BE USED TO COVER LOCAL COSTS AND INTER NATIONAL TRAVEL FOR VISITS TO OR STUDY IN USSR AND EE COUNTRIES BY YOUNG AMERICAN WRITERS. PEN CLUB WOULD PRESUMABLY

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HAVE TO ACT AS AGENT FOR AUTHORS WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR LOCAL CURRENCY FUNDS, AND AN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION WITH EXPERIENCE IN CONDUCTING EXCHANGES WITH USSR AND EE COUNTRIES WOULD BE DESIGNATED AS EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR THE PEN CLUB IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANTS TO U.S. WRITERS. THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, IN PRELIMINARY FORM WITH IREX, WHICH HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL, BUT OTHER U.S. ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT ALSO BE WILLING TO TAKE ON SUCH A PROGRAM.

- 3. WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN THE PEN PROPOSAL AND THE VERY LIMITED CHANCES FOR SUCCESS. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR OPENING A NEW AND IMPORTANT AVENUE OF INTERCHANGE SHOULD BE FULLY INVESTIGATED AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE RE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH A PROPOSAL BEING ACCEPTED IN HOST COUNTRIES. POSTS, IN THEIR DISCRETION, MAY DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. DEPT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE AVAILABLE INFO ON ROYALTY SITUATION IN HOST COUNTRY. INGERSOLL

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To: BELGRADE MULTIPLE

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